Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a first direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

a second direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

an image designating unit ~~(227)~~ for designating ~~either~~ one of the first image data and the second image data, wherein the image-angle correcting unit corrects the tilt of the image data designated by the image designating unit so that the direction of the designated image data coincides with ~~that~~ the direction of the other image data.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a first direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

a second direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

wherein the image-angle correcting unit corrects the tilt of ~~either~~ at least one of the first image data and the second image data by an arbitrary angle.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a touch panel which is operable as a first direction-designating unit to designate a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device, and which is operable as a second direction-designating unit to designate a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a

comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

wherein the ~~first and the second direction-designating unit comprise a~~ touch panel ~~and designate~~ designates the direction of the first image data and the direction of the second image data using coordinates which represent positions on the touch panel where a user touches.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

an angle sensor which is operable as a first direction-designating unit to designate a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device, and which is operable as a second direction-designating unit to designate a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

wherein the ~~first and the second direction-designating unit comprise an~~ angle sensor ~~for detecting~~ detects an angle and ~~designate a~~ designates the direction of the first image data and the direction of the second image data based on the detected angle.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a first direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

a second direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

wherein the first direction-designating unit and the second direction-designating unit comprise key buttons and designate a direction based on a direction of ~~the~~ a depressed at least one of the key ~~button~~ buttons.

Claims 9-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A photographing method ~~according to claim 9, further comprising the step of~~ comprising:

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted; and

g) designating ~~either~~ one of the first image data and the second image data, wherein the tilt of the designated image data is corrected so that the direction of the designated image data coincides with ~~that~~ the direction of the other image data ~~(C08, C09)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A photographing method ~~according to claim 9, further comprising the step of~~ comprising:

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide; and

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted;

wherein the tilt of ~~either~~ at least one of the first image data and the second image data is corrected by an arbitrary angle.

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A storage medium ~~recording the photographing method according to claim 14, which method further comprises the step of~~ having recorded thereon a computer readable

program for controlling a control unit of a camera to perform functions of:

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted; and

g) designating ~~either~~ one of the first image data and the second image data, wherein the tilt of the designated image data is corrected so that the direction of the designated image data coincides with ~~that~~ the direction of the other image data ~~(C08, C09)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A storage medium ~~recording the photographing method according to claim 14, in which method~~ having recorded thereon a computer readable program for controlling a control unit of a camera to perform functions of:

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide; and

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted;

wherein the tilt of ~~either~~ at least one of the first image data and the second image data is corrected by an arbitrary angle.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).